

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 MMS-03 NEA-10 AF-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /155 W

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R 200417Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP AUSTRALIA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, IO, AS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ANSWERS QUESTION ON DIEGO GARCIA
EXTENSIONS

REF: CANBERRA 0775

1. IN QUESTION MIDWAY THROUGH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S WEEKLY
PRESS CONFERENCE MAR 20, FOL EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE:

QTE Q. WILL YOU SUPPORT ANY DIPLOMATIC MOVES BY THE NEW
UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT WHICH MIGHT BE OPPOSED TO AN AMERICAN
BUILDUP ON DIEGO GARCIA?

QTE WHITLAM. YES. IT IS IN THE CONTEXT THAT WE DON'T BELIEVE
THAT IT HELPS THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR
THERE TO BE GREAT POWER RIVALRY. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THERE WOULD
BE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION
TO RESTRICT THEIR BUILDUP.

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QTE Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES
ON THIS MATTER?

QTE WHITLAM. I HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVE
HERE. I HAVE NOT RAISED IT. IT HAS COME UP IN CONVERSATION.
END QTE.

2. COMMENT: GENERAL LINE WHITLAM TOOK IN ANSWER TO FIRST
QUESTION IS CONSISTENT WITH AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA
RELEASED TO PRESS ON BACKGROUND BASIS FEB 7 (TEXT IN REFTEL)
AND THEN ISSUED AS OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE FEB 11. WHITLAM ANSWER
TO QUESTION MAR 20 IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH HIS SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS
TO AMBASSADOR AND TO ADMIRAL GAYLER. UNLESS NEW BRITISH
GOVERNMENT DECIDES NOT RPT NOT TO APPROVE DIEGO GARCIA EXTENSIONS,
WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FURTHER ACTION BY WHITLAM ON THIS SUBJECT.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL FORCES, PEACE, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
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